

**THE MARICOPA COUNTY ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S
WOMEN'S TREATMENT, SERVICES AND SUPERVISION NETWORK:
AN EVALUATION**

A Report Submitted to the
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
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By
John Hepburn and Marie Griffin
Arizona State University

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ABSTRACT

This research report describes the effort of the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department to develop a comprehensive, integrated program of treatment, services, and supervision for adult female drug-abusing offenders. Funded by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), the Women's Treatment, Services and Supervision Network (WTSSN), or simply the Women's Network, designed and operated a program to provide eligible volunteers with a needs assessment, case management, probation supervision and referrals to treatment. The report describes and evaluates the ability of the Women's Network to create partnerships with other criminal justice agencies and with social services providers. The report documents the organization of the Network, the obstacles encountered, and the successes achieved.

Did the Network achieve its goals? Documentary analysis of the planning, implementation and operation of the Women's Network indicates that the Network achieved its immediate goals. This conclusion is supported by an overwhelming majority of key stakeholders knowledgeable about the Network, its philosophy and its activities. The Women's Network was able to form a partnership with a number of critical allied criminal justice and social services agencies, and together this partnership was able to develop and disseminate a new philosophy and a new approach to treating drug using female offenders. As a result of these successful efforts to develop an integrated network of service providers, the Network succeeded in its attempts to (1) assess the treatment needs of female drug using offenders, (2) provide case management services to female drug using offenders, and (3) offer female drug using offenders a continuum of services and supervision.

Did the treatment delivered by the Network --- the assessment, the case management, and the treatment services --- increase the likelihood that a woman would be successful one year after entering the Network? Based on the random assignment of eligible Network volunteers to a control group or to the Network, comparisons after one year indicate that Network participants were no more likely than control group participants to be successful in terms of social outcomes, drug and alcohol use, or new crimes.

These findings are discussed in terms of both the limitations experienced by the Women's Network and its broader accomplishments. These results are the basis for five lessons learned. First, the integration of services and supervision may be a worthy goal, but it is elusive and requires great effort to coordinate partnering agencies. Second, staff turnover is inevitable and must be an ongoing part of the program planning. Third, five years and \$1 million do not necessarily result in a working Management Information System. Fourth, voluntary participation results in a very large attrition rate, which reduces the time in treatment and compromises the ability of the treatment program to achieve the desired effects. Fifth, the need for services among this population of female offenders is real and effective programs are needed to provide multiple services to this underserved population.